WOMEN IN GHANA

An Annotated Bibliography

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To

ALL GHANAIAN WOMEN

for their Industry and Resourcefulness

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FOREWORD

Since the launching of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1975, it has become necessary for every country to incorporate the Women-in-Development considerations at the earliest stages of development planning. This is because women are not only beneficiaries but also agents of development.

The United Nations Population Fund (U N F P A) saw the very urgent need to make available comprehensive data that will enhance the work of policy makers, planners, scholars, donor agencies and indeed all those who are endeavouring to integrate women in more effective development planning.

This bibliography is to a large extent a comprehensive collection, containing documents on almost all aspects of women in the country. In addition, the author and subject indexes provide access to the literature. As the most current work of this nature, it is invaluable to anyone interested in the varied roles of women in development. The various institutions, associations and organizations interested in researching into women's issues will also find it useful for their researches.

UNFPA Field Office (Ghana) looks forward to more collaboration with the women's research group of the University of Ghana, Legon, who have compiled this work inspite of all the difficulties encountered, especially at the initial stages.

DR. A.T. FADLU-DEEN
UNFPA Country Director (Ghana)

'woyei' as well as how they are called to priesthood and trained. There are two categories of "woyei" being freelance, and those permanently attached to a particular god. The "woyei" hold an annual "yeleyeli" (yam feast) in thanksgiving to their gods ("dzemawoo"). The book also studies witchcraft, which in most cases involves women, its organization, nature, their activities and how the witchcraft power is acquired. Women afflicted with barrenness and frequent miscarriage consult either the medicine man or the "wolomo" of a god. Pregnant women also consult these medicine men for safe delivery as well as when they suffer headaches and undue discomfort. It also notes religious customs and ceremonies associated with childbirth and childhood of ordinary children and twins as well as the various processes of puberty rites for girls.

RELIGION *TRADITIONAL MEDICINE* *TRADITIONAL HEALERS *PRIESTS* *MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH*

754 GYIMAH, Nyantekyiwa Sheila Yaa. - "Women and priesthood: a case study of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches of Ghana." A Project Work submitted to the Department for the Study of Religions, University of Ghana, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the B.A. Degree in Religions. June, 1987, 76 pgs.

Women have for a long time had a lot to do with the thriving of the Christian Ministry in both the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Ghana. Although women played an important part in the establishment and survival of these churches in this country, they were not considered as eligible to enter into Holy Ministry as pastors. The reasons for keeping them out were based on a number of traditional arguments which were theological, sociological, psychological and cultural. After serious consideration of these issues, the churches were satisfied that on balance, there were not enough grounds for continued barring of women from the ordained Ministry so they began being ordained in the two churches. The selection and training of females into the ordained Ministry is not much different from that of their male counterparts. Both women and men who have the "call" to serve the Lord in His Holy Ministry have to follow certain standard procedures. On the field, the work the female pastors are engaged in is not so different from their that of male counterparts. However, there are many problems encountered by the female pastors. The married ones, for instance, have to learn to combine various problems associated with females in the Ministry. These include the extension of training of female pastors to enable them to help women in congregation in a very useful way, embarking on a programme for fostering the acceptance of female pastors by the congregation and their having a maternity leave.

CHRISTIANITY *PRIESTS* *WOMEN'S ROLES* *WOMEN'S STATUS*

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